National Electricity Fund

2261. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to create the National Electricity Fund to help the State Electricity Boards to plug transmission and distribution losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the transmission and distribution losses in power sector in the country have increased during the last few years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and to what extent the fund created by Government is going to check such losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Finance Minister in his Budget Speech of 29-02-2008 stated that it is the poor state of transmission and distribution (T and D) that is a drag on the sector and huge investments are required to be made in T and D, but linked to fundamental reforms. Hence, it was proposed by the Finance Minister to create a National Fund for transmission and distribution reform. In pursuance of the announcement made by the Finance Minister for creation of a National Fund, a Committee under the chairmanship of the Member (Power), Planning Commission has been constituted to consider various aspects of establishing the National Electricity Fund (NEF).

(c) to (d) Prior to year 2001-02, utilities used to monitor Transmission and Distribution (T and D) losses. The concept of Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT and C) loss was introduced in 2001-02. AT and C loss captures not only the technical losses but also the theft, pilferages and commercial losses due to poor metering and billing and non-realization of dues. According to the report on Performance of State Power Utilities for the year 2004-05 to 2006-07 prepared by the Power Finance Corporation, the AT and C losses of the State Power Utilities at the national level for 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 were 34.82%, 35.18% and 33.07% respectively.

Gas supply to Kawas and Gandhar projects of NTPC

†2262. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether gas based NTPC plants situated at Kawas and Gandhar in Gujarat are being supplied gas as per their demand;

(b) if so, the details of the demand and supply of these plants;

(c) the installed power generation capacity and the actual power production of these plants; and

(d) whether the Madhya Pradesh Government, Gujarat Government, NTPC or State Electricity Board has requested to enhance the gas supply and if so, by when a decision in this regard would be taken to ensure supply?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The gas supplies to NTPC's gas based power plants at Kawas and Gandhar have been less than the requirement. The estimated gas requirement to operate these two plants at 90% PLF is around 6.23 Million Metric Standard Cubic Meter per Day (MMSCMD). There are long-term agreements with Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) for supply of 3.69 MMSCMD of gas for these gas based stations. However, owing to shortage of gas in India, the delivered quantities have fallen short of the contracted quantities. During April-November, 2008, the actual supply has been 1.94 MMSCMD only. The gas shortfall is being partially mitigated by tying up Spot Regasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) from time to time based on requirement and availability of Spot RLNG. Shortage of gas is being made up to some extent by supplementing liquid fuel (Naphtha) in Kawas.

(c) The installed capacity and generation capacity of these plants are as follows:—

Station	Gross installed capacity (MW)	Actual Power Generation (MUs) — April-November, 2008
Kawas	656.2	2166.3
Gandhar	657.39	2678.1

(d) Requests have been received for increasing gas supply to Kawas and Gandhar along with other gas power stations of NTPC and it has been decided that from the first 40 MMSCMD of natural gas to be produced from RIL's KG D6 field, up to 18 MMSCMD natural gas, being the partial requirement of gas based power plants lying idle/underutilized and likely to be commissioned during 2008-09, and liquid fuel plants, which are now running on liquid fuel and could switch over to natural gas, would be supplied to power plants. Kawas and Gandhar are in this category and have been considered for the above supply.

Rates for purchase and sale of power

†2263. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the power regulators have proposed to fix two maximum rates for purchase and sale of electricity in the Indian Energy Exchange;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the basis on which these rates have been fixed; and

(c) the percentage of these rates in terms of average cost of electricity generation at nation level in hydel, thermal and atomic power sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir. The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) in its Order dated 17.12.2008 on "measures for restraining the prices of electricity in short term sale/trading" has not fixed any ceiling of tariff for any entity including the Indian Energy Exchange.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.